

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1 and 6-9. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the invention and claims 2-5 have been canceled. In addition, claims 6-9 have been added. The claims correspond with allowed claims of the corresponding Japanese patent application which has already been patented as Japanese Patent No. 4007975. In addition, FIGS. 2, 3a, 3b, 4b, 4c and 5 have been amended to indicate insulator 12 and the specification has been amended to refer to same. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure at pages 7 and 9-11 and FIGS. 2, 4a-4c, 5 and 6a-6b. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show the features of an insulator holding said contact and a shell surrounding said insulator recited in claim 1, lines 2-3. In response, Applicants have amended FIGS. 2, 3a, 3b, 4b, 4c and 5 to indicate insulator 12 which holds contacts 13 with shell 17 surrounding the insulator, and have amended the specification to refer to insulator 12. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments overcome the Examiner's

objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on that basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 2-5 and have amended claim 1 to better define the invention.

The term "a boss portion" is described with reference numbers "65" and "37" in paragraphs [0025] and [0044] of the disclosure in connection with FIGS. 2, 6a and 6b. The phrases "said connector being used for mounting a substrate" and "a reinforcing portion provided between said object and the substrate" are based on FIGS. 5 and 6. The phrase "said shell has three faces surrounded by said engaging portion" is based on FIGS. 4a, 4b and 4c.

The phrase "a part of said engaging portion opposite to a release surface being elastically deformed to reduce an inner

space so as to engage the shell or to increase an inner space so as to release the shell, so that said reinforcing member is detachably fitted to said connector body" is described in paragraphs [0039] and [0041] in connection with FIG. 4.

In addition, the recitation "an attachment object" has been changed to --object to be fixed-- and as previously indicated FIGS. 2, 3a, 3b, 4b, 4c and 5 have been amended to show insulator 12 which holds metal contacts 13 and is surrounded by shell 17. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on this basis be withdrawn as well.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Tsai U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0109176*. The remaining claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tsai* in view of *Murayama U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0235348*.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, and in new claim 6, Applicants' invention provides a connector including a connector body and a reinforcing member. The connector body includes an elongated conductive contact, an insulator holding the contact, and a shell surrounding the insulator. The shell has a flange formed with a boss portion for fixing the connector to an object to be fixed, the connector being used for mounting a substrate. The reinforcing member includes a reinforcing portion provided between the object and the substrate and contacting the flange and an engaging portion engaging the shell.

As recited in claim 1 as amended, the shell has three faces surrounded by the engaging portion. A part of the engaging portion opposite to a release surface is elastically deformed to reduce an inner space so as to engage the shell or to increase an inner space so as to release the shell so that the reinforcing member is detachable fitted to the connector body.

As recited in new claim 6, the reinforcing portion includes a hollowed portion which escapes from the boss portion and penetrates in an intersectional direction to a forming direction of the boss portion to be opened on one end of the hollowed

portion. See paragraph [0038] of Applicants' disclosure. The reinforcing member is detachably fitted to the connector body, and a substrate receiving a stress generated in fixing the connector to the object is received through the reinforcing member. See paragraph [0041] of Applicants' disclosure.

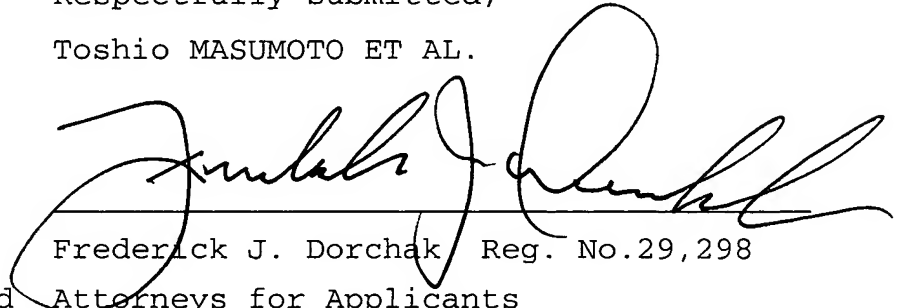
In this way, Applicants' invention provides a connector with a flange that can prevent deformation of the flange at the time of fixation thereof, can prevent a solder crack of a connector soldered portion by relieving an excessive pushing force by a mating connector to a board, and has increased strength without changing the structure of the connector body.

Each of claim 1 as amended and new claim 6 specifies that the reinforcing member is detachably fitted to the connector body. In contrast, neither the primary reference to *Tsai* nor the secondary reference to *Murayama* discloses a connector in which the reinforcing member is detachably fitted to the connector body. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' connector as recited in claim 1 as amended and new claim 6 differ in structure from both *Tsai* and *Murayama* whether considered alone or in combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

that claim 1 as amended and new claim 6 together with claim 8 which depends on claim 1 and claims 7 and 9 which depend on claim 6 are patentable over the cited references.

In summary, claim 1 has been amended, claims 2-5 have been canceled and claims 6-9 have been added. The specification and FIGS. 2, 3a, 3b, 4b, 4c and 5 have been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshio MASUMOTO ET AL.

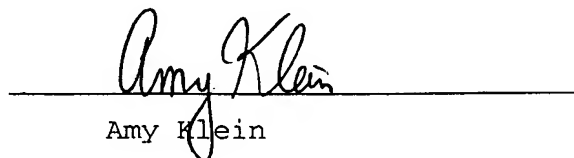


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Enclosures: Appendix - 4 replacement sheets of drawings

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 24, 2009.



Amy Klein

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APPENDIX